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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Most Reverend Paul J. Swain, bishop of the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese, Sioux Falls, SD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank You for the many blessings You have bestowed upon us and our country, especially those of personal freedom and self-government. Continue to watch over and guide Members of this Senate and all who serve in public office, a high calling with grave responsibilities that affect the lives of so many. May they seek the common good with civility and charity, assuring that these blessings are secured for future generations.

Protect those who defend these blessings around the world and reassure their families who worry about them. Be with those who are suffering this day in any way, especially from forces imposed upon them, including persecution and violence. As each of us seeks to do what is right and just, may we do so by looking out for those around us and looking up for inspiration and guidance.

May You continue to bless this land of the free and home of the brave which, thanks to those who have gone before, is also a magnificent beacon of hope.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The senior Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. I thank the Presiding Officer.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I rise to welcome Bishop Swain to the U.S. Senate. On behalf of myself, my colleague from South Dakota who is currently presiding over the Senate, and thousands of grateful believers in South Dakota, I thank Bishop Swain for his service to our Lord and to our communities of faith.

Bishop Swain was sworn in as the eighth bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls in late 2006, but his journey of faith and service to his country began far before that. Paul Joseph Swain was born in Newark, NY, and is one of eight children.

After graduating from Northern Ohio University with a degree in history and earning his master's at the University of Wisconsin, Bishop Swain joined the Air Force as an intelligence officer. He served our Nation in the Vietnam war, where he earned a Bronze Star.

Bishop Swain should feel right at home on the floor of the U.S. Senate because after serving in Vietnam, he tried his hand in politics. He completed his law degree and went on to work on the campaign and in the administration of Gov. Lee Sherman Dreyfus, who served as the Governor of Wisconsin until 1983.

After a short stint in politics, Bishop Swain answered a much higher calling. He was received into the Catholic Church, graduated divinity school in 1988, and entered the priesthood. Years of dedicated pastoral work ensued in the Diocese of Madison, WI, and a decade ago we were truly blessed when Pope Benedict named him bishop of Sioux Falls.

On the day of his ordination, Archbishop Flynn gave the homily at high

mass. He noticed that as successors to the apostles, the service of bishops is to spread the word of God and promote the sanctity of their flock. Bishop Swain has never forgotten that counsel. He understands that the church has a role to play in the public square, particularly on moral issues. He never shies away from the challenges facing the poor and disenfranchised, and he never hesitates to stand for values that protect life and family. He is a pillar of our community and a spiritual leader to over 100,000 Catholics in East River, SD.

Bishop Swain's episcopal motto is to "Give praise to the Lord." Today we are giving praise for Bishop Swain's unwavering devotion to the word of the Lord and to the service of His people.

I thank the bishop for joining us today.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2666

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2666) to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating the rates charged for broadband Internet access service.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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